

Fredericton conference 2025

DOMESTIC IMPLEMENTATION OF IHL IN CANADA

DATE: MARCH 14TH, 2025

TIME: 11H AM - 2H30 PM

LOCATION: UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK LAW BUILDING, ROOM 2A/B

Agenda

11h am	Opening Remarks	To be confirmed
11h05 am	Introduction to IHL	Fanny Dagenais-Dion Canadian Red Cross
11h20 am	Panel: Canadian implementation of IHL at home and abroad	Dr. Cindy Brown and Pr. David Matyas University of New Brunswick
12h05 pm	Lunch break	
12h30 pm	Fireside chat with The Honourable B. Richard Bell, K.C.	
1h30 pm	Closing remarks	To be confirmed

LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

Chief Justice B. Richard Bell (Ret'd.), Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada

The Honourable B. Richard Bell was born in Woodstock, New Brunswick. He joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1973, graduated as valedictorian of his class, and served as a constable at various locations throughout Nova Scotia until 1976. He received a Bachelor of Laws in 1979 and a Master of Laws in 1998, both from Dalhousie University. Chief Justice Bell was called to the Bar of New Brunswick in 1979. He was a partner with Buchanan Bell from 1984 to 2000. He then became a senior partner with the firm McInnes Cooper from 2000 to 2006. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2004. Mr. Justice Bell was appointed a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench of New Brunswick, Trial Division, in 2006, and a judge of the Court of Appeal of New Brunswick in 2007. He was appointed a judge of the Federal Court of Canada, a judge of the Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada, and Chief Justice of the Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada on February 5, 2015. During his more than 25 years of practice, Chief Justice Bell appeared before numerous administrative tribunals and all levels of the courts, including the Federal Court, the Federal Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada. Chief Justice Bell is a former President of the Canadian Bar Association, New Brunswick Branch, and a former member of l'Association des juristes d'expression française du Nouveau-Brunswick and of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. He is the author of several legal publications.

Dr. Cindy Brown, Director of Honours and Research Associate, Historical Studies, University of New Brunswick

Dr. Cindy Brown teaches and supervises in the fields of Modern Italy, international humanitarian law, and European History with an emphasis on war and society. She holds a Ph.D. in History from the Western University (2013) an MA in History from the University of New Brunswick (2004) and a BA (History Honours) also from UNB (2002). She is the Executive Director of the Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society and a Research Associate with the Department of History at UNB. Her doctoral research examined the impact of the Second World War on Italian civilians, with special consideration of the relationship between Italian civilians and soldiers and the evolution of Allied Military Government and Civil Affairs in Italy and Northwest Europe. She connects these ideas in her research and teaching across the twentieth century, most recently as a co-investigator on a SSHRC-funded project (with Western Ontario) called "Long-term housing outcomes of under-housed Syrian refugees" that seeks to understand the challenges faced by government assisted Syrian refugees in finding suitable housing. In addition to her research and teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels, Dr. Brown is also a lead on the Gregg Centre's War and the Canadian Experience education program. Through this program, she and her team partner with world-class educators to facilitate the teaching of war and society related issues in classrooms across Canada. Within this program, she has guided teachers, graduate and undergraduate students, and members of the Canadian Armed Forces in multiple programs in Sicily, Italy, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

Pr. David Matyas, Assistant Professor, Law Studies, University of New Brunswick

David Matyas is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of New Brunswick and Gates Scholar at the University of Cambridge and Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, where he is completing his PhD. David's research focuses on the laws of humanitarian assistance and disaster law. His research draws on mixed-method approaches to put doctrinal analysis in conversation with practitioner perspectives. His writing has appeared in journals such as *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, *Human Rights Quarterly*, *Disasters*, and *Canadian Public Policy*, as well as popular sources like *The Globe and Mail*, *Maclean's* magazine, and the *Ottawa Citizen*. Before being called to the bar (Law Society of Ontario 2020), David worked as an aid worker, with placements in London, UK, Niamey, Niger, and Dakar Senegal, where his work focussed on disaster risk reduction. He holds degrees from McMaster University (BASc), the University of Oxford (MPhil Development Studies), and McGill University (BCL/LLB), where he was the Elizabeth Torrance gold medalist. As a student he clerked for The Honourable Justice Yves-Marie Morissette at the Quebec Court of Appeal and upon graduation he clerked for The Honourable Rosalie Abella at the Supreme Court of Canada.

Fanny Dagenais-Dion, IHL Coordinator, Canadian Red Cross

Fanny Dagenais-Dion works as International Humanitarian Law Coordinator at the Canadian Red Cross and is a lawyer registered with the Quebec Bar. As part of her role in the IHL unit, she contributes to the dissemination of IHL, particularly among the Canadian Armed Forces and the academic community. Fanny is also pursuing a master's degree in international law at Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), focusing her research on the military commanders' legal responsibility to prevent sexual violence in armed conflict. Before joining the Red Cross, Fanny also worked in Guatemala with a local human rights organization, representing victims of armed conflict. She has also worked as a legal advisor in civil law and to victims of sexual violence in Quebec.